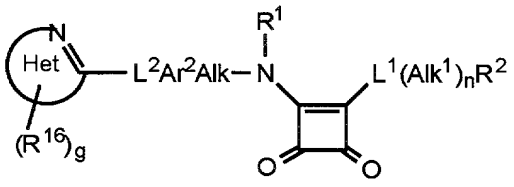
ABSTRACT

Squaric acid derivatives of formula (1) are described:



(1)

wherein

Het is an optionally substituted bicyclic fused ring heteroaromatic group;

L^2 is a covalent bond or an atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2$, $-N(R^8)-$ or $-C(R^8)(R^{8a})-$;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk is a chain

$-CH_2CH(R)-$, $-CH=C(R)-$, $-\underset{\displaystyle CH_2R}{\overset{\displaystyle |}{CH}}-$ or $-\underset{\displaystyle CHR}{\overset{\displaystyle ||}{C}}-$

in which R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) or a derivative or biostere thereof;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}alkyl group;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic chain;

n is zero or the integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted heteroaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloalphatic, heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group other than a 2,6-naphthyridin-1-yl, isoquinolin-1-yl, 2,7-naphthyridin-1-yl or quinazolin-4-yl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

The compounds are able to inhibit the binding of integrins to their ligands and are of use in the prophylaxis and treatment of immune or inflammatory disorders, or disorders involving the inappropriate growth or migration of cells.